Leicester,
Sunday Oct^o. 25/68.

Dear friend Webb,

We were very glad to receive yesterday your note of the 22^d, written at M^r. Haydock's house, and to ascertain y^e whereabouts, prospects, & prospects. Our weather has, for the most part, been very uncomfortable, & October especially seemed doing its utmost to destroy its own reputation. I am particularly sorry you could not have had a fine bright day for your sail down the Hudson. — A note to my daughter from Mrs. Wilkinson spoke of your having left them, but she did not name the day of y^r going, so I was not able to determine just where you might be. She spoke of the pleasure she had had from your visit, & D.v. & said she surveyed your vacant rooms with tears in her eyes. — I suppose it will be a good many days yet before you reach Boston; but I shall hope to know of it as soon as you get there. I have got to be in the neighborhood of Providence before long, & perhaps we may meet there, but if not then in Boston. We were very glad to hear

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of the arrangement for Deborah to go to Florida under such pleasant circumstances. I hope it may prove of great benefit to her, and that the privations & rude methods of that region, cursed with the presence of slavery so long, may not overbalance the charm of its air & temperature. Shall you think of going thither at all? I presume not.

Stephen S. & Abby K. Foster have been to see us to-day. I look upon her as one raised from the dead. She continues to improve, & can now, she says, go upstairs with ease. She sprang - almost - from her chair, at hearing I read to them your last note, & they look forward to soon seeing you, hoping not to be disappointed, as in Miss Esther's case.

Yes - it will be indeed I fear very near to six months that you have been here, & not found your way to Leicester. What makes me the more sorry for it is that you have lost the summer here, - the time when the house is open, & the piazza the comfortable sitting place, & out door preferable (generally) to in-door. Now, - if we may judge from the week past, - it will be coming,

When you do fix the time for leaving Newport I shall be glad to know it, if convenient,

stoves will be up, & comparatively little to do or to see without. However y^r present dissipation to much going about will make the house the more tenable, and we shall hope to make you feel at home. In summer time, too, we C^o have had company to meet you, which now we cannot expect. All which I say, to put you on your guard against disappointment. The visit you have promised has seemed to fly away as we approached it, but now we hope it is indeed at hand. Only recollect that November is, too.

This was the day that Horace Greeley was to breakfast with you. I hope that his many other Engagements, at this particularly busy time, will not have prevented his keeping this.

Will you remember me, with my best respects, to Mr. & Mrs. Haydock? I hope they, and all theirs, are in good health.

Our kindest regards to Deborah. And believe me, Ever truly, Yours

Saml. May Jr.

Yr. handwriting grows firmer, steadier, & more natural.

When you fix the time for leaving Newport I shall be glad to know it, y^r convenience,

Ms. B. 1. 6 v. 10, p. 66